National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Trust for Public Land in Washington, D.C. She was also one of 36 Fellows selected to participate in the National Conservation Leadership Institute program, is a member of the Executive Committee and future President of the Bay Area Open Space Council and served on the both the Urban Rural Roundtable (formed by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom to create a Bay Area Regional Food System) and on the Statewide Watershed Advisory Committee.

Madam Speaker, Andrea Mackenzie's combination of visionary and practical leadership has ma e the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District a vital player in our community. Sonoma County could have gone the way of other growing counties in California with sprawl from end to end. Instead, it remains blessed with green open space, productive agriculture, and many unique and intact ecosystems. We thank her for her great contributions to our children's natural inheritance and wish her luck in her new position where she will be continuing her good work closer to her family.

## ''HOW TO AVOID A BAD DOUBLE DIP''

### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, Alan Blinder is a man of great intelligence, excellent judgment, and considerable experience in both making and analyzing national economic policy. In this article from last Sunday's New York Times, he draws on all of these qualities to give us some excellent advice. I can think of no more relevant subject for my colleagues to contemplate as we deal with important economic choices.

[From the New York Times, May 17, 2009]

IT'S NO TIME TO STOP THIS TRAIN

(By Alan S. Blinder)

Contrary to what you may have heard from some doomsayers, 2009 is not 1930 redux. What we must guard against, instead, is 2010 or 2011 becoming another 1936.

Realistically, there is little danger that the economy is heading toward a repeat performance of the Great Depression—when real gross domestic product in the United States declined 27 percent and unemployment soared to 25 percent. What we have is bad enough: our worst recession since the 1930s. But unless our leaders behave unbelievably foolishly, we will not repeat the tragic slide into the abyss of 1930 to 1933—for two main reasons.

First, our economy has many built-in safeguards that did not exist back then—like unemployment insurance, Social Security and federal deposit insurance, to name just three. These programs serve as safety nets that cushion the fall. And while they are certainly not strong enough to prevent recessions, they should be enough to prevent another depression.

The more important reason is that Barack Obama, Timothy F. Geithner and Ben S. Bernanke are not Herbert Hoover, Andrew Mellon and Eugene Meyer. (Who's that? Mr. Meyer was the Federal Reserve chairman from September 1930 to May 1933.) In stark contrast to the laissez-faire crowd that ruled the roost in 1930 and 1931, our current economic leaders are not waiting for the sagging economy to right itself. Rather, they have taken numerous extraordinary steps already—and stand ready to do more if necessary.

That's the good news. But even if another depression is next to impossible, there is still the danger that next year, or the year after, might turn into 1936. Let me explain.

From its bottom in 1933 to 1936, the G.D.P. climbed spectacularly (albeit from a very low base), averaging gains of almost 11 percent a year. But then, both the Fed and the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt reversed course.

In the summer of 1936, the Fed looked at the large volume of excess reserves piled up in the banking system, concluded that this mountain of liquidity could be fodder for future inflation, and began to withdraw it. This tightening of monetary policy continued into 1937, in a weak economy that was ill-prepared for it.

About the same time, President Roosevelt looked at what seemed to be enormous federal budget deficits, concluded that it was time to put the nation's fiscal house in order and started raising taxes and reducing spending. This tightening of fiscal policy transformed the federal budget from a deficit of 3.8 percent of G.D.P. in 1936 to a surplus of 0.2 percent of G.D.P. in 1937—a swing of four percentage points in a single year. (Today, a swing that large would be almost $600 billion.)

Thus, both monetary and fiscal policies did an abrupt about-face in 1936 and 1937, and the consequences were as predictable as they were tragic. The United States economy, which had been rapidly climbing out of the cellar from 1933 to 1936, was kicked rudely down the stairs again, and America experienced the so-called recession within the depression. Real G.D.P. contracted 3.4 percent from 1937 to 1938; the total G.D.P. decline during the recession, which lasted from mid-1937 to mid-1938, was even larger.

The moral of the story should be clear: Prematurely changing fiscal and monetary policies—from stepping hard on the accelerator to slamming on the brake—can be hazardous to the economy's health.

Wow, we've learned a lot since the '30s, right? Well, maybe not. For the echoes of 1936 are being heard right now, even before the current recession hits bottom.

If you've been paying attention, you know that a number of critics of the Fed are sounding alarms over the huge stockpile of excess reserves it has created—more than $775 billion at last count. What these critics are fretting about now is exactly what goaded the Fed into action in 1936: that the vast pool of loose money will ultimately be inflationary. The clear inference is that some of it should be withdrawn before it's too late.

On the fiscal side, many of President Obama's critics are complaining vociferously about the huge federal budget deficits. Try to ignore, if you can, the sheer hypocrisy of many Congressional Republicans who, having never uttered a peep about the huge deficits under George W. Bush, are suddenly models of budget probity. But whatever the motives, the worries of today's deficit hawks sound eerily reminiscent of Roosevelt in 1936 and 1937.

Fortunately, Mr. Bernanke is a keen student of the Great Depression who will not allow the Fed to repeat the errors of 1936–37. But his critics, both inside and outside the Fed, are already branding his policies as dangerously inflationary, and no Fed chairman wants to be called an inflationist.

Similarly, I hope and believe that President Obama will not transform himself from the spendthrift Roosevelt of 1933 to the deficit-hawk Roosevelt of 1936—at least not until the economy is back on solid ground. That said, a growing flock of budget hawks are already showing their talons. They will have their day—but please, not yet.

To avoid a replay of the policy disasters of 1936–37, both the Fed and our elected officials must stay the course. Mark Twain once explained that, while history does not repeat itself, it often rhymes. We don't want any rhymes just now.

## TAIWAN PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS INAUGURATION

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou will mark his first year anniversary in office on May 20, 2009.

Under President Ma's leadership, Taiwan has become an observer at the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, Switzerland. By enabling Taiwan to participate in this part of the World Health Organization (WHO), the health of 23 million Taiwanese people can benefit from what will be learned at the WHA. Historically, China has blocked Taiwan's access to this very important forum, and through President Ma's effective diplomacy, Taiwan has ended a 38 year absence from the WHA.

Madam Speaker, President Ma has also taken great strides in improving Taiwan's relationship with China. Taiwan and China now have direct flights back and forth to each country. This was unheard of before President Ma took office and travelers were previously required to make an inconvenient stop at another airport and switch planes before these direct flights were available.

Furthermore, China has given Taiwan two of its prized Pandas. Pandas are extremely rare and very important to the Chinese culture, and the amicable trade between the two countries is a positive indication for building a cordial relationship between the two nations. These and other efforts by President Ma are helping the two neighbors enter a time of peace, security and stability.

Madam Speaker, the United States and Taiwan continue to share a strong bilateral relationship. As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I congratulate President Ma on a very successful first year in office and look forward to continuing to work in making sure that our relations are preserved and strengthened.

## COMMENDING AMY ISAACS, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Amy Isaacs, National Director of Americans for Democratic Action, on the occasion of her retirement.

For 20 years Amy has led ADA, the nation's most experienced organization dedicated to